

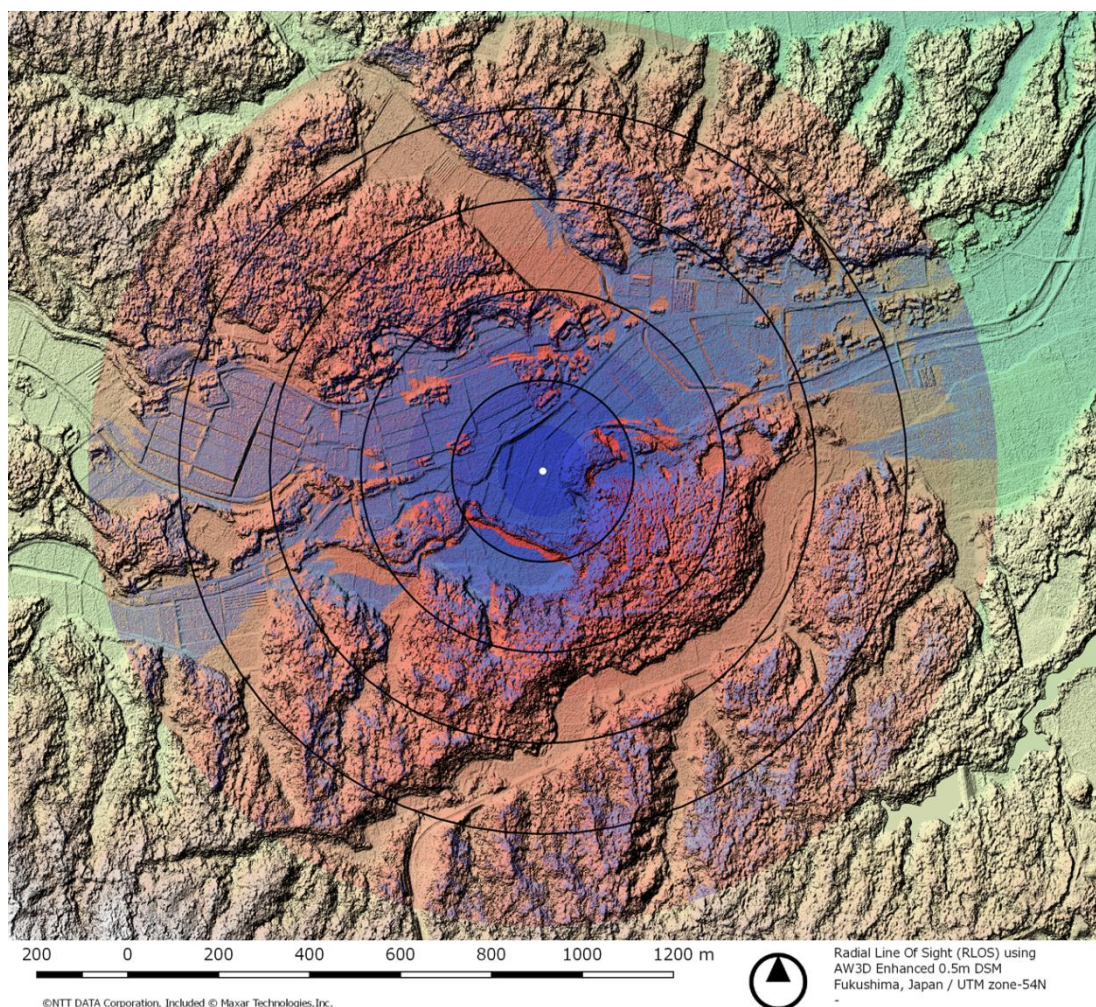
Welcome to your AW3D newsletter. We're excited to share the latest news, tips, and resources for geolocation specialists. Thanks for reading.

Application of the Month: Line of Sight (LoS)

Many agree that visual information is one of the most important factors for various human activities. This is because *"you can't fix what you don't see"* in general.

Line of Sight (LOS), also often called "viewshed analysis," shows terrain visibility from a particular observer location and height in a given landscape scene. Each location in the simulation result receives a value that indicates whether or not it is visible from the observer point.

This analysis is significantly important for city zoning and planning for real estate, tourism, and construction industries, event security for law enforcement agencies, and air-flight operations for transportation industry. It's also the key factor for the military services to achieve superior use of the terrain through cover and concealment analysis in order to accomplish a successful mission.



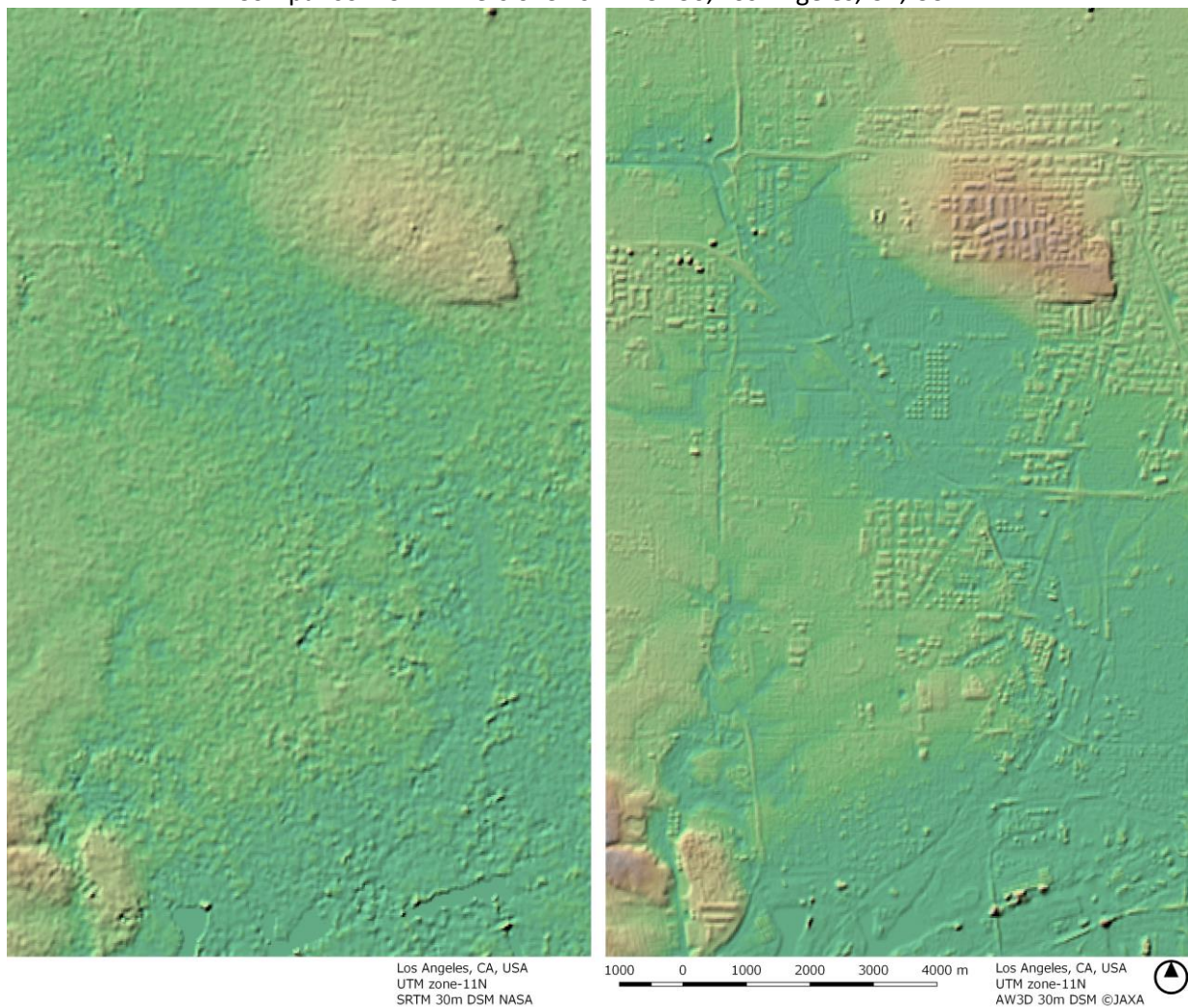
The above imagery is one example of Radial Line Of Sight (RLOS) analysis result. AW3D Enhanced 0.5m resolution DSM is used for the base terrain model. Thanks to one of the world's finest resolution among all satellite-based terrain models, you can see that the obtained result is crisp and ultra detailed. If you are interested in test driving this example, please [contact us](#) to get a free sample.

Topic of the Month: AW3D30, a free global 30m DSM

Many of you may already be aware of this, but there is a free version of "AW3D" named *AW3D30*. This global coverage 30-meter resolution DSM and its auxiliary data can be downloaded from JAXA for FREE. This dataset was originally generated via down-sampling the commercial version of AW3D Standard 5m DSM product.

- AW3D30 offers more crisp and sharp ground feature details compared to SRTM, which is a SAR based 30-meter resolution de-facto standard free DSM from NASA. The obvious quality gap of two DSM data shown in the below image could be possibly from the fundamental differences between optical and SAR satellite based DEM.
- Through various meta-data that come with DSM tile, you can identify the list of scene IDs that were used to generate within a given any 1 x 1 degree tile. This also means that the observation time of the source imageries is available (via JAXA ALOS/PRISM meta-data)

Comparison: SRTM version3 vs. AW3D30, Los Angeles, CA, USA



As you can imagine, there are many ways to take advantage of this free data. For example, you may rely on this free DSM in a very early stage of your project. When you need a higher resolution of DSM or DTM with commercial quality and services at a later phase, you can seamlessly switch to AW3D 5m/2.5m Standard DSM/DTM or even AW3D 2m/1m/0.5m DEM products with various options such as contour lines, ortho imageries etc.

There are several sites that offer convenient and easy way to download the data, but you may want to make sure that you are fetching the latest version (currently version 2.1)

For more details, please refer: <https://www.eorc.jaxa.jp/ALOS/en/aw3d30/index.htm>

Any question, comments or suggestions are always welcome. We can be reached [at here](#).

Thanks for tuning in,

The AW3D sales team



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